

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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44

ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 HEW-06 L-03 ITC-01 /041 W

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P 101442Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4004

UNCLAS BONN 20800

PASS AGRICULTURE FOR FAYANS, SPD; FITZSIMMONDS & SINDE-  
LAR, F & VEG.DIV: SCHROETER, ITP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN AFLATOXIN TOLERANCE ORDINANCE AND  
TRADE REACTION

REF: BONN 09943 OF 6/11/76

1. THE BUNDESRAT HAS PASSED ORDINANCE SETTING MAXIMUM  
TOLERANCES FOR AFLATOXIN IN CERTAIN FOODS. THESE TOLE-  
RANCES, THE PRODUCTS TO WHICH THEY APPLY, AND ALLOWABLE  
MEANS TO REDUCE AFLATOXIN IN EXCESS OF TOLE-  
RANCE REMAIN SAME AS STATED IN REFTEL. THE ORDINANCE  
WILL TAKE EFFECT MARCH 1,1977.

2. THE GERMAN IMPORT TRADE ASSOCIATION HAS SENT US  
CIRCULAR LETTER RE THE POSITION THEY WILL TAKE AGAINST  
SUPPLIERS WHOSE PRODUCTS EXCEED TOLERANCES. THE LETTER  
IS VERY STRONGLY WORDED, PARTICULARLY ON THE FOLLOWING  
POINTS: IT STATES THAT A) THE PRODUCTS LISTED IN THE  
ORDINANCE MUST QUOTE BE FREE OF AFLATOXIN UNQUOTE,  
B) MOISTURE LEVEL WILL ALSO BE STRINGENTLY CONTROLLED,  
AND C) QUOTE THE GERMAN IMPORT TRADE WILL CANCEL EVERY  
EXPORTER FROM HIS LIST, WHO SOLD GOODS CONTAINING MORE  
MOISTURE THAN ABSOLUTELY (UN)AVOIDABLE UNQUOTE.

3. HARD LANGUAGE OF CIRCULAR LETTER EXPLAINED BY HEAD  
OF TRADE ASSOCIATION AS BEING INTENDED PRIMARILY  
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FOR MEDITERRANEAN SUPPLIERS WHOSE PRODUCT IS

FAR BELOW US STANDARDS. LETTER WAS SENT ONLY TO A FEW DRIED FRUIT AND NUT ASSOCIATIONS IN US AND NOT TO ALL SUPPLIERS. EXPLANATION OF ABOVE-MENTIONED POINTS WAS AS FOLLOWS: A) THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVE IS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF AFLATOXIN TO A MINIMUM. THIS MINIMUM WILL BE REDUCED AS MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY IMPROVES. B) THERE IS NO GERMAN GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE ON MOISTURE LEVELS BUT TRADE HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW STANDARDS SET BY ECE (ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE) FOR PRODUCTS INVOLVED, OR IN CASE WHERE SUPPLIER COUNTRY HAS A BETTER RECORD, A STANDARD BASED ON THAT RECORD. C) QUOTE CANCELLING AN EXPORTER UNQUOTE IS INTENDED TO MEAN THAT INDIVIDUAL GERMAN IMPORTERS ARE VERY LIKELY TO STOP DEALING WITH SUPPLIERS WHO SEND SUBSTANDARD MERCHANDISE: NO REPEAT NO OFFICIAL BOYCOTT IS IMPLIED.

4. THE LETTER MAY WILL ALSO BE INTENDED AS PRECAUTIONARY ACTION TO PROVE TRADE HAS DONE UTMOST TO WARN SUPPLIERS SHOULD LEGAL ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST IMPORTER WHOSE PRODUCT EXCEEDS TOLERANCE.

5. WE ARE FORWARDING COPY OF ORDINANCE AND TRADE LETTER WITH ATTACHMENTS.

STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, CHEMICALS, FOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 DEC 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Film Number:** D760456-0878  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** wolfsd  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2004  
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**TAGS:** EAGR, GE  
**To:** STATE  
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